

*1-Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations*

*2-Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

*3-Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. (Psalm 90)*

Our Lord's incarnation name is Immanuel: "God with us." We are told further, in the Epistles, that the saints, the church, is God's house, God's dwelling place, that God indwells man. But here we are told that God is man's dwelling place, his home, his origin, from whence he came. God only existed before the creation, before the mountains were born or He had formed the earth and the world. All creation came out of Him, for there was nothing else from which anything could be made: "*of Him and through Him and to Him are all things*" (Romans 11:36).

Man, in original sin, has left home; he has gone away from God, his eternal dwelling place. "We were as sheep *going* astray." They have all *gone* out of the way." As such, men are all "homeless," without a resting place. In the inner recesses of their souls, they feel it; they are as travelers, drifters, never quite able to relax, rest, be at peace as one is when he is in his own home, where he belongs, where he is safe and secure.

This is a truth of equal power and force in "all generations." There never has been a people or a race living who have not felt this alienation, this void, this restlessness, fear and insecurity. What a wonderful confidence is this when we would witness to lost men! We can be absolutely sure, without a shadow of doubt or uncertainty, and we can tell the unconverted person that what he needs is God, *knowing* that, regardless of how firmly, obstinately, defiantly he denies it, that poor lost soul knows it is the truth. Press it home, saints! You are not trying to get him to believe something incredible to him, but exhorting him to accept what he knows and feels in his soul.

Nor are we without supporting, corroborative witness to this. God Himself is perpetually entreating men to "Return." He does this in the most powerfully impressive way possible. "You turn men to destruction" (literally, dust). "Dust you are and unto dust you shall return." God promised the penalty of sin, of departing from Him, would be death. Every time a person dies, every time we face this grim certainty, every time we hear of it or see it, God is entreating His prodigal sons to come home. This is that "last enemy," which, for the world, shall not be defeated as long as the world stands. It is testimony of the righteous judgment of God, of man's short, futile life, and of God's overture to repentance.

For us who are in Christ, however, our Saviour has, through death, destroyed the devil and delivered us from death's terror. For us the "grim reaper" is no enemy, but a friend to usher us bodily into our eternal home in the bosom of God. It is a powerful testimony of the gospel. For as certain as "all who are in Adam die," and they certainly do, "*much more*, all who are in Christ shall live." We shall!

-C.M.